SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

The PRG, a legal government

IN his December 12, 1972 message to the Saigon Parliament, Nguyen Van Thieu reiterated his oft-repeated proposal to discuss South Viet Nam's affairs with the National Front for Liberation alone. The Saigon Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam was more loquacious. In an interview with *Radio Luxembourg* on January 17, 1973 he declared acceptance of the principle of the four delegations to the Paris Conference signing the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam but made it clear that Saigon would sign no instrument with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. In other words, the US and Thieu deny the juridical existence of the PRG and question its legality. They want the Saigon regime to be the only "legal" government in South Viet Nam to negotiate with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the one hand, and with the NFL regarded as a mere political organization possessed of no state power on the other.

What is a legal government? Public international law supplies this answer: It is a government formed in accordance with international juridical principles, i.e. with the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the peoples, considered as a whole the corner stone of contemporary international law. Elections are only one form of expression of popular will, a common but not the only form, otherwise all revolutionary governments would be illegal and consequently so would all revolutions.

Mr Charles Chaumont, professor of the Nancy Law Faculty and Brussels Université Libre has given the following authoritative view at the International Jurists' Grenoble July 6-10, 1968 Conference: "Other modes of expression of the peoples' right to self-determination emerge when the force majeure prevents the casting of votes. The conduct and action of the masses is another form, not less valid and probably more eloquent, of popular will. This phenomenon is well known to international in times of war whereby the legitimacy of the governments of enemy-occupied countries is preserved or established."

To back up this opinion, a universally known American document—the July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence — may be relevantly quoted: "...Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, * it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

The December 14, 1960 Resolution of the UN 15th General Assembly has, by solemnly proclaiming the necessity to put a rapid and unconditional end to colonialism under all its forms and in all its manifestations, legalized various national liberation struggles. This has been made explicit by the resolution of the 20th General Assembly on December 12, 1963 which recognized "the legitimacy of the struggle that the peoples under colonial domination and to independence" and requests "all states to give material and moral aid to national liberation movements in colonial territories."

On the other hand, the basic criteria of a valid recognition of a new government are: its effective authorites, i.e. its genuine independence, its real sway over a given territory and population and its representativeness, i.e. its democratic basis.

In the light of such norms, it is transparent that the Saigon government of the so-called Republic of Viet Nam, has been installed by the Americans with the obvious and unquestionable aim to undermine the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and more particularly to prevent the free general election provided for in point 7 of the Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference. Unlawful by its origin, it is also illegal by the rigged elections it issued from. The present Thieu administration has achieved inglorious fame from the 1967 presidential election farce and the October 1971 "one horse race" which was thoroughly manipulated.

It is not independent since it depends entirely for its money and arms on the US which control all its activities, at all levels with a legion of civilian and military advisors. The very word "Vietnamization" spells out clearly enough Thieu's relationship to his US bosses.

His is moreover the less "representative" of all puppet regimes put in power so far because it defends the interests of no social section to speak of but the only imperialist interests of the US and imposes on South Viet Nam a dictatorship with decree-laws and a rash of mass arrest and political assassinations.

Reversely, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is the fruit of long years of patriotic resistance of the South Vietnamese people for the defence of the Vietnamese people's fundamental rights recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. It succeeds the National Front for Liberation which was already invested with attributes of sovereignty and recognized by numerous states and international organizations as the only and sole legimate representative of the South Vietnamese people. It is however not the NFL made into a state, for it has been unanimously elected by the Conference of the Representatives of the South Vietnamese People which consisted of delegates of all social segments, races and religious creeds of South Viet Nam and assembled on the initiative of two Central Committees, that of the NFL and that of the Alliance of the National, Democratic and Peace Forces of Viet Nam.

The PRG exercises effective authority because its people's armed and police forces control extensive areas and extend their action to US-Saigon occupied towns. It is independent in the conduct of the war in South Viet Nam as welle as in the negotiations of peace at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

It is representative in the full acceptation of the word, since its vigorously upholds Vietnamese fundamental national interests and the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. If the state of war made country-wide general elections impracticable, local Revolutionary committees, at hamlet, village, district, province and town levels were freely chosen by secret ballot.

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* *i.e. these unalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

(*Continued on page 3*)

Uprising and seizing control of the Mekong River Delta

PRG FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN ISSUES STATEMENT

The Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on January 20 issued a statement condemning the US imperialists for intensifying B.52 extermination bombings against many heavily populated areas in South Viet Nam.

The statement reads in full as follows :

HAVING sustained bitter setbacks in its strategic air offensive against Hanoi capital, Haiphong port city and other populous areas of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and being sternly condemned by world public, the Nixon administration had to suspend all military offensives including the bombing, shelling and mining against North Viet Nam as from 22 : 00 hrs on January 15, 1973. However, at the same time as it declared suspension of the air strikes against North Viet Nam, the Nixon administration mustered B.52 strategic bombers and other planes to carry out extermination raids against densely populated areas in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

The US military spokesman in Saigon himself disclosed that on January 17, 1973 US aircraft made a record number of bombing missions in the past two months with 30 B.52 missions and 355 tactical plane missions. This is comparable to the bombing drive against North Viet Nam in December 1972, as remarked on January 18.

While the Nixon administration ceaselessly clamours that "peace is at hand," it is piling up utterly savage crimes against the South Vietnamese people. In the past few days, US bombs and shells killed thousands of civilians, mostly old people, women and children, levelled many vast areas, destroyed and damaged many houses and thousands of hectares of paddy-fields and orchards, and killed hundreds of cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals of the people.

The above-mentioned criminal acts of extermination expose the treacherous and cruel nature of the US imperialists, prove that the Nixon administration has not renounced its design of aggression but still nurtures the illusion of using bombs and shells to subdue the Vietnamese people, materializing US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam and perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam. But the crimes of the US aggressors have only increased the Vietnamese people's hatred and enhanced their resolve to defeat the aggressors. These crimes have intensified the wrath of the world people and the progressive people in the United States. Bringing into play the successes of the strategic significance recorded in the past year and learning from the spirit of undaunted fight of their Northern kith-and-kin in defeating the US strategic air blitz, the South Viet Nam PLAF and people are determined to deal the US aggressors and the bloodthirsty clique of henchmen still heavier punishing blows.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Viet Nam sternly denounces and severely condemns the extremely brutal crimes of extermination perpetrated by the US aggressors, demands that the Nixon administration end for good the bombing in both zones of Viet Nam, the war of aggression in Viet Nam, the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, all US involvement in South Viet Nam and stop backing the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and sign immediately the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam."

Back from ten hells

I left the Central Police Department on March 26, 1970 for Tan Hiep. Right on my arrival there, I was ordered to attend a "denounce communists" course. When the morning "class" was over, the detainees got ready for lunch. On hearing that I was a "new comer," they pelt me with questions. But the warders forbade me to answer them.

In the afternoon, I was paid a visit in my cell by a group of people who styled themselves "Representative Committee" and "Study Committee." They served on me this warning: "You'd better try your best in study, so as to be sent back as soon as possible to your work."

"Since you've been brought here," they went on after a pause, "unless you learn hard, you'll be sent to Con Son island or made away with." At this very place, a lot of people had been dealt with, this way, for refusal to "learn." Some were disposed of on the spot. Others were sent back to the Central Police Department and pushed into acid tanks or underground cells connected with the Zoological Garden. Then hungry tigers were let in and that's the end."

On the next morning, I was led again to the "class." Never had I attended such a class. The "students" were bound to strictly abide by what was labelled "study regulations." The only proper position during the lectures was to sit cross-legged with one's supine hands on one's thighs, or to squat hugging one's knees. This posture could not be shifted without the permission of the "lecturer." It was forbidden to swat flies, mosquitoes, bugs, even when stung, to yawn, to laugh or to look round... Any violation of these regulations would be regarded as an act of rebellion against the government's policy. First offenders were liable to one day's solitary confinement and starvation. Second time offences were punished with half a day's hanging by the hands or feet from the ceiling and half a day's "sailing," the latter punishment consisting in keeping the victim immersed in water and starved for two days. Third time offenders were to be savaged by police dogs or made away with...

There was a break only at noon. During the 7-hour lecture, only one posture-changing was permitted. Our limbs got numb, our backs stiff and our heads aching. For having been till then not put to the torture, I still had more staying power than many other prison mates, yet I felt extremely uncomfortable.

That was what a "lecture" was like. For the "discussion," we were divided into 3-man groups, and given number 1, 2 or 3. During the "discussions" no queries were allowed. Some lip service and such conclusions as "the national government is good and strong" were regarded as indications that you had grasped the substance of the lecture. Otherwise, you would be harassed by "Study overseers" after the class and inflicted the "hair picking" punishment.

A student named Hoat Bat was penalized in this way for daring to raise objectives. He was made to sit cross-legged on a cement yard under a burning sun and to pick his own hair with both hands, one from his head and one from his chin, the two things having to be done simultaneously, and only one hair each time! If two hairs happened to be pulled out at one pluck, or were not picked at the same time, then the offender was given 5 club blows. For two hours in the afternoon, Hoat Bat was beaten 20 times or 100 blows on his head.

I could help exclaiming, "what savagery!" On hearing me, all the detainees roared approval and chanted: "Down with the US-Thieu clique! Down with the savage torturers!" They made such an uproar that Thieu's police were rushed in. Charging the detainees with "attempted rebellion," the desperaders opened fire, killing 15 on the spot and wounding many others. Many were taken to an unknown destination.

After that incident, I was given a quite different treatment. On March 28, 1970, at 3 p.m. I was moved from a rather light and clean room into a dark musty cell stinking with blood, excrement and urine, and infested with flies, bugs, mosquitoes and worms... Through a small opening, I saw that the cell next to mine was occupied by a female inmate.

The woman was sitting on the floor with her hair hanging. I softly called to her, may be she did not hear me at first, but she only looked up all of a sudden at my third call.

"How long have you been here?" I asked her. Breathing heavily she answered: "Thank you, sir, but please dont 't ask me this question any more. You'd better kill me! We were 6 of us in this cell. You've killed five of us. I am the only survivor. So kill me too. What's the use questioning?"

"Poor me! How cruelty ironical of Fate! I am no killer! During my 36 years' practice, I have been only concerned with saving people's lives. Just look at me and don't be mistaken. I am a detainee just like you!"

She seemed to have understood, and said, "Sir, my eyes can no longer see clearly. Excuse me. But I don't know you."

No doubt, she had been here long. I gave a brief account of my arrest. When I had finished, she pondered a little while. She must have realized my truthfulness, for she apologized and began telling her own story in a grave voice.

"I'm twenty eight, and a native from Saigon — Cholon. I've got two children. A girl of eight and a boy of five. My husband was a casualty of B-52 carpet bombing against Ben Suc. My parents died when I was but a child. As an orphan, I had to earn my own living. At eighteen, I got married. Then my husband and I were only interested in our trade, and thought we would be accordingly left alone. But on January 2, 1968, I was arrested. For what reason, I don't know. I've been inflicted all kinds of torture. Now I'm left to die"...

I was moved to tears by her narrative. She was the age of my elder daughter, whose lot I had been concerned about. Was she happy, or miserable, or in jail? I did not happen to think of her by mere chance. That was what the South Vietnamese society was like under the US-Thieu regime. They spent so much money bribing and fostering unscrupulous hacks and liars... and raising such a ballyhoo about democracy and freedom. But the reality was but war, depravation and fascism.

The enemy seemed to have scented out something. They began using threats and tried to make me speak. "You're an intellectual," they said, "you can't have any connections with this country woman?"

So they forced me to put up a fight instead of remaining passive. When they wanted me to make self-criticism, I retorted, "I haven't done anything wrong. The very people to be blamed are yourselves"...

"Does this mean that you break away from the "national ranks" from this very minute?" asked a member of the "Study Committee."

"Please, don't say 'break away'. Just say that I don't belong to your anks. I repeat it: I don't belong to your "national ranks" because your "nation" of slaves is hated by all Vietnamese."

On the morning of March 30, 1970, I was moved away in a black maria. The "country" woman—her name was Hue, was sitting by me, and several fellow-prisoners behind us.

Chi Hoa prison where we were driven to was already overcrowded. There I met three colleagues: Dr Nguyen from Tay Nguyen; Dr Nguyen Van Binh of Sadec hospital and Dr Pham Phu Thong of Da Nang hospital. Filled with joy by this encounter, we were all the time together waiting for an opportunity to consult between ourselves. But our warders kept such a close watch that we had to part without being able to exchange any words.

Here the enemy's "mildness" was ended and the brutalities began. They wanted to extract information on my past activities.

"You deny having any relation with the VC. But why did you always talk and make friends with them when you were in prison?"

"They were all kind and courteous and knew more than I."

"So you're with them, aren't you?"

"What are you driving at? I am friends with those who are kind and knowledgeable. Now you're free to charge me with any crime you like."

On entering the ward, the prison chief who was to interrogate me stopped in front of me a moment. Starring at me, he shrugged his shoulders, winked than folded his arms on his chest, and said in a raucous voice, his breath smelling of alcohol, "I say, doctor, you're an intellectual, so you must be more clever than we. But we must tell you that you've wasted a lot of our time. We advise you to give a serious thought to it. You have but to say one sentence. That you've attended to VC patients, that's our only requirement! In order to cope with VC infiltration into public utility, especially into hospitals and dispensaries for intelligence gathering. Since you've not done anything like that why refuse to say so?"

"If you can resist our questions," he went on after a short pause, "then what can you resist this?"

He produced a pair of shining pincers. After close scruting I made it to be a polished big nail-puller. Pointing at the sharp claws he explained: "With this improved tool, we've managed to collect a rich crop of intelligence. Do you like to try them?"

Before I had time to answer, he caught my wrist between the sharp teeth of the thing which punched 4 bleeding holes in my flesh. Then he dragged me into my cell.

My wounds bled profusely and soon got swollen and I had a temperature.

On the following day, I was driven in a black maria to a place near Rach Gia where, a few days ago, many people had been assembled.

Our destination was the "Phu Quoc reeducation camp."

N. V. H.

here and there

"A regrettable incident"

It would be interesting to know the number—certainly impressive—of bombings and shellings "by mistake" on Saigon troops by US "advisors," in the course of US aggression in South Viet Nam. Such occurrences have been so frequent that, each time they happen, they no longer produce any stir in public opinion save among the relatives of the casualties. And each time they come to pass, a simple explanation offered by the US Command proves enough, lays the blame for them, particularly for the bombings, on the faulty pronunciation of the English words of the Saigon troops in their calls for help. Such a defect leads to the confusion of one thing for another. A pretty plausible justification always conducive to an amused smile which makes the excuse almost acceptable.

But there are a few variants to such incidents.

First, on December 7, 1972, a helicopter gunship AH1, supplied by the US but manned by the Saigon people, fired on a group of Saigon troops, killing exactly a dozen of security men. The subsequent Saigon Command communique which confirmed the "regrettable incident" made it claim that it had taken place in a place only 10 miles from the capital. Clearly enough, it was irrelevant in this case to invoke the "linguistic difference." The only explanation possible is the panic of the Saigon pilots flying under the fierce adverse flak and that of the Saigon ground troops fleeing under the violent PLAF fire.

An Intentional "mistake"

Then on January 8, 1973, 5 US fighters also dropped "by mistake" 34 500-pounders bombs on the Northern sector of Da Nang airbase. About 100 Saigon officers and men and 50 Americans including many officers and technicians, were killed or wounded and 20 planes and many petrol and shell dumps blown up or set on fire.

This time the "mistake" was sizeable, judging from the toll. But the ambiguity of the US Command's communiqués which mentioned various causes, the ones as absurd as the others, gave rise to widespread suspicion. Finally the beans were spilled. It was a deliberate strike at rebelling GI's at grips with Saigon soldiers.

Two things are apparent:

1) the deception of Laird who asserted on January 8, in his testimony to the House Armed Forces Commission, that "Vietnamization was completed," that there was no more reason to keep US logistic, air and ground forces in South Viet Nam;

2) the deep feud between the GI's and the Saigon troops in the context of the obvious failure of "Vietnamization."

Once more, Nixon and Co had the opportunity to exercise their unparalleled brutality.

A phobia

The Thieu regime has reimposed a ban on the import of all red and blue cloth, no matter its origin and quality. All orders placed must be cancelled. Whatever stock already brought in must be dyed a different colour. All this is to "prevent" the people from making Communist flags and the measure had been imposed as early as October 1972 (*Reuter, AFP*, January 1, 1973).

-This renowed step, stricter and prompted by the zeal of the masses in making "NFL flags" in the teeth of all security precautions, is not so "drastic" as it claims to be. First, one needs not be a conjuror to dye in blue or in red cloth of any colour. Then, there should be also a ban on things of daily use blue or red. Lastly, the NFL colours symbolizing revolution and peace are already in the hearts of the people, flown and honoured in many parts of the world where the presence of the Thieu regime is strictly prohibited. And the Thieu gang is not unaware of this.

Some say that their impotence and fury before such a state of things spells out unmistakably that their doom is imminent. Anyhow, it is for them an eternal torment to see constantly the colours of their aversion in the serenity of the peaceful sky of South Viet Nam which is a liquid blue, and in the bracing heat of its sun which is a blazing red.

Mephistopheles

In the universal outcry triggered by US B.52 raids on Hanoi, Haiphong and other North Vietnamese population centres, the world's religious circles have also raised their indignant voices.

Letters, ditpatches, messages, resolutions, declarations, appeals, prayers, acts of resipiscence, and even a plan to send 100 churchmen of renown to Hanoi and Haiphong to stand in the open there in case the US persists in its bombing, have been various forms of protest by God's servants from all continents against Nixon's criminal folly. The list is long of communities and personalities of all creeds who have objected to the killing and reminded humanity of the elementary principles of all religion: love and peace.

It seems that for once, the savagery of a political megalomaniac has involved all the holy men in worldly affairs, in an attempt to put in order the life of God's creatures. But there is an exeption however. And you must arm yourselves a "holy" forbearance when reading this *AP* dispatch of June 5, 1973, which said that yesterday at the moment when the democratic Senators conferred between them, some 400 war-protesters meet near the Capitol to listen at anti-war speeches and the songs of Joan Baez, just back from Hanoi There were also some ten anti-demonstration persons, *led by the priest McIntire* (emphasis is mine—HN), bearing slogans: "Peace through victory!" "Not to sell out our allied!"

The event is by itself eloquent enough.

HUONG NAM

The PRG, a government legal

(*Continued from page 1*)

The PRG enjoys world-wide credit because it was recognized by more than 20 states right during the first month of its installation. In August 1972, the Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries attended by more than 60 nations, officially admitted it as a full member to the non-aligned countries' family.

IN its September 11, 1972 statement the PRG, after recalling the principle that a fair political solution for Viet Nam must be prompted by the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's genuine right to self-determination took note of the present situation in South Viet Nam: existence of two different regimes, of two different armies and of a number of political forces and accordingly proposed the establishment of a tri-partite interim government of national concord. This enlightened and fair offer found a fresh expression in the text of the Accord on ceasing the war and restoring peace, reached by the DRVN and the US on October 20, 1972.

The subsequent US *volte-face* was allegedly justified by "difficulties encountered in Saigon," i.e. Thieu's objections. Now that Nixon has been forced by his humiliating setback in the twelve-day blitz on North Viet Nam and pressure from angry universal and US opinion to resume the peace talks with a view to the signing of the agreement, his henchmen reappears on the Saigon stage to return to the charge, with his two-Viet Nam contention and denial of the existence of the PRG, a co-contracting party with equal rights for the last 3 and a half years, at the Paris Conference. Such US and Thieu behaviour challenges human conscience and only indicates their unparalleled political bad faith and their juridical self-dissociation from contemporary international law.

in the liberated areas

— Agricultural production has made headway in Central Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper). In 1972, over 100,000 peasants in the region rose up to flatten US-Thieu "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native villages to join in farming and the fighting. In the same period, the people in the main recovered their former acreage, did the rice-planting in season and expanded the arable land to 14,000 hectares more than in 1971.

In Kien Tuong province, the tilled land was nearly 3,000 hectares larger than in the previous year and over 700 hectares of hilly land were reclaimed. Peasants in My Tho put over 500 more hectares under cultivation. In Ben Tre, the area under rice grew nearly 8,000 hectares wider than in 1971, with the double-crop fields occupying over 5,000 hectares. Despite US-Thieu fierce attacks, farmers in the province have rehabilitated over 10,000 hectares of horticultural crops and pushed up animal husbandry.

— Information, cultural and medical activities in My Tho have recorded great progress. In 1972, the information and cultural service in the province was strengthened and extended from district to village and hamlet levels. It disseminated over 3 million copies of the RSVN PRG 10-point policy towards Saigon army officers and men, the DRVN Government' October 26, 1972 and the RSVN PRG October 28, 1972, statements, papers, news bulletins and cultural and arts revues. Shock propaganda brigades, cultural and dance and song troupes and exhibition teams popularized the NFL and PRG positions, lines and policies to the people living in the enemy-held areas, Saigon officers and men, and distributed tens of thousands of anti-US-Thieu leaflets, pamphlets and appeals calling on Saigon troops to cross over to the people's side. The same service also held 50 theatrical performances for over 40,000 spectators and exhibitions for over 50,000 others.

Also in 1972, the My Tho medical service opened nearly 30 training courses for hundreds of nurses, laboratory attendants and midwives, and produced 35 kinds of preventive and curative medicines. The medical network has been extended to all parts of the province. Thousands of medical workers have been serving with dedication in 100 medical stations from hamlets up to the province. Besides fixed therapeutic establishments, several mobile medical teams have been set up in different localities.

— In 1972, in Binh Dinh province, there were 8 continuation schools for workers and peasants with 18 classes and over 300 students, and nearly 800 primary classes with 26,700 pupils. The teachers' colleges in the province graduated 700 primary school teachers and ran refresher courses for a number of elementary school teachers. The provincial education board published 3,000 copies of primary and elementary text books.

Defying US-Saigon repeated raids on the liberated areas, schools continued to function in the province. In Hoai An district, after liberation, the revolutionary administration has opened 60 primary classes for more than 1,000 children. In the mountainous region of Binh Dinh, illiteracy has been completely wiped out.

— In November and early December last year, the Ben Tre Cultural and Artistic Troupe gave 20 performances for a total audience of 20,000 including relatives of Saigon armymen.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF PRG COUNCIL

President HUYNH TAN PHAT's political report

The Council of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government held its first session in 1973, from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, during which the situation of last year was reviewed and orientations were worked out for this year.

The political report was delivered by Architect Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRG, who brought forth the significance of the great, all-round and solid gains the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam had made on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, which, he said, had caused Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy to sustain another setback, a very serious one, and was reducing it to total bankruptcy.

The President laid stress on the South Vietnamese people's determination to persist in and step up their war of resistance to force the US imperialists to give up all aggressive designs against Viet Nam, conclude the peace agreement, and recognize their legitimate right to self-determination.

The following tasks were laid down for the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam to carry out in the immediate future: to strengthen unity, seize every opportunity and promote initiative in order to speed up the movement of armed offensive and popular uprising on all battle fronts in combination with diplomatic activities. The aim is to inflict complete defeat on the US policy of "Vietnamization," crush whatever adventurous moves the enemy may take, and compel the US to sign the mutually reached agreement. At the same time, efforts will be made to develop all political and armed forces, consolidate and build the liberated zone and revolutionary power at all levels. The enemy must be defeated under any circumstance, and complete victory must be won.

Supplementary reports were then made by various members of the PRG, who passed under review the military and diplomatic situation, the townspeople's movement, and the PRG's activities in the fields of culture, information, economy and finance, public health, education, etc.

In the last historic days, the PLAF combatants sharing the fire with the Hanoi people and armed forces

"Unity and national concord is a noble tradition of our people."

Thus declared President Huynh Tan Phat, President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the political report delivered at the New Year session of the PRG to review the situation of 1972 and work out the direction and tasks for the coming period.

In that period, President Huynh Tan Phat highlighted the great, all-sided and steady victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, and pointed to the direction and their concrete tasks in the coming period with a view to complete victory.

President Huynh Tan Phat stressed:

In the light of the imperative requirements of the situation and in our urgent tasks, the key and most fundamental problem for the immediate as well as long-term future is to broaden the national united front, rallying large sections of the patriotic, democratic, and peace forces of all strata, political tendencies, religious sects and nationalities who approve national concord to fight against the US aggressors and their stubborn and bellicose henchmen, the Nguyen Van Thieu clique.

The Vietnamese people, with their tradition of unity, will never let themselves be divided and misled by the perfidious policy of the enemy. With the exception of a handful of traitors resigned to serve the enemy, the overwhelming majority of our people remain united, share the same suffering and the same hatred for the enemy and are turning their thought to the Fatherland.

Unity and national concord is a noble tradition of the Vietnamese nation, forged through four thousand years of making and defending the nation, factor to keep the Vietnamese nation one and united through all trials. The Vietnamese nation is one and Viet Nam is one. This no enemy, however brutal and crafty, can divide.

This fine tradition which has been fostered by our venerated President Ho Chi Minh with his policy of great unity has led to the most glorious victories of the two great and sacred resistance wars of our people. "A hand has its long and short fingers, yet they all are of the same hand." This teaching of President Ho reminds us always to hold high the banner of unity and national concord.

President Huynh Tan Phat went on: The PRG resolutely strives to put into practice the policy of national concord, regarding it as the foremost and fundamental policy at present as well as in the future, as pointed out by the National Front for Liberation and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces at its recent joint conference.

The ten-point policy of the PRG toward soldiers and officers in the Saigon army is a sample of the policy of national concord.

It is also in the spirit of national concord that the PRG has always advocated the formation of a three-segment coalition government, and resolutely urged the establishment of a three-segment National Council for national reconciliation and concord.

In its political solution and in its statement of Oct. 28, 1972, the PRG also voiced its belief that after the ending of the US military involvement and the re-establishment of peace, if all sides in South Viet Nam abide by the principles laid down in the agreement, there will be every favourable condition to eliminate enmity, foster unity, heal the war wounds, and usher South Viet Nam in a period of lasting stability.

The PRG will work out specific provisions for a policy to guarantee broad national concord among the people.

To those with meritorious services to the Fatherland, the PRG is deeply thankful and will actively help them and create conditions for them to make further contributions to the nation.

With regard to those who for one reason or another have stood in the ranks of the enemy, the PRG will unite and co-operate with anyone among them who wishes to rejoin the national ranks and contribute to the glorious cause of national salvation, with the only exception of a handful of valets who stubbornly oppose the revolution and follow the enemy to the end to kill their own countrymen.

The policy of national concord advocates persuasion through justice humanity and leniency in treatment, so that all those who have taken the wrong path but who after realizing it, really want to break with the past and return to the righteous path, will find their place in the national community.

The PRG calls on the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, and the peace- and justice - upholding forces in the world that have actively supported the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people, to struggle still more vigorously by condemning the US and helping stay its bloody hands, and urging it to sign immediately the agreement already reached, in order to restore peace in Viet Nam and end completely the US military involvement and intervention in South Viet Nam. At the same time, it calls on them to continue giving effective and still stronger assistance to the South Vietnamese people to defeat the aggressive scheme of the US imperialists.

The PRG sincerely welcomes the American people, who, for the sake of peace, justice and the honour of the United States, have persistently protested the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina as a whole, and calls on them to struggle still more strongly to demand that the US government stop supporting the Nguyen Van Thieu clique and sign immediately the agreement on restoring peace in Viet Nam and on the complete cessation of the US military involvement and intervention in South Viet Nam, thus ushering a new period in the relationship between the United States and Viet Nam.

PLAF liaison fighters—ways of communication between various battlefields

RSVN PRG's COMMUNIQUÉ

The Council of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government has issued an important communiqué on its New Year's session on Jan. 8-10, 1973.

Assessing the situation in 1972, the communiqué said:

The Council noted that in 1972 the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam won very great, all-round, solid and highly important victories inflicting another, very serious, defeat on the US "Vietnamization" strategy, pushing it to the brink of bankruptcy. The Nixon clique also failed in its policy of "re-Americanizing" the war through the massive participation of US air and naval forces.

A new feature of the armed offensive in 1972 is the annihilation of a very important part of the enemy's effectives and war means. 470,000 enemy were put out of action, of which 8 divisions, 35 regiments, brigades or tactical groups, and 327 battalions of infantry and support or auxiliary forces were either wiped out or decimated. Worthy of note is the destruction of entire big units of the most seasoned forces of the enemy, of whole armour regiments, whole brigades of the general reserves which had maximum support from US air and naval forces. Our armed forces and people, breaking through many most heavily defended lines of the enemy — outer protective rings and intermediate perimeters alike — and bringing our forces deep into populous areas and enemy held territory, upset the strategic defensive setting of the enemy throughout South Viet Nam while creating for ourselves footholds of the best, most solid kind so far, and providing ourselves with better opportunities to develop both our strength and position. With full initiative our armed forces reduced the puppet main forces into utter passiveness, confusion and difficulty, now drawing them apart, now pinning them down, now scattering them in all directions, thus making them too exhausted to provide support to the territorial forces and the "pacification" programme. Puppet troops, for all the effort of the US to breathe life into them through massive supply of arms and war materials, are being demoralized to a very serious extent, and there is no chance of recovery for them. It has become obvious that the puppet army, even with enormous US air and naval support, is unable either to do the bulk of the fighting in Indochina or replace the US forces in the confrontation with us on the battlefield of South Viet Nam.

Everywhere, even in vital areas on enemy territory, our people and armed forces have fought and risen up continuously and vigorously smashing chunks after chunks of the "pacification" system—the basis of the US-puppet "Vietnamization" programme — breaking the enemy's grip while establishing our own control in dozens of district towns and military sub-sectors and thousands of villages and hamlets, thus linking many hamlets, villages, districts and provinces together.

Over five million more people have been liberated, who are endeavouring to build and consolidate the revolutionary power and develop its effective role in every field of activity.

In the towns and other enemy-held areas, the people's movement against pressganging and exploitation, closely combined with the struggle against Nguyen Van Thieu's fascist policies and the movement against the US-Thieu opposition to peace, and for an end to the war, national concord, etc., is going on unabated under very diversified forms and at an increasing tempo."

The communiqué then reviewed the victories of North Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in 1972.

On South Viet Nam's successes on the diplomatic front, it said:

The glorious success we recorded at the Georgetown meeting of non-aligned countries in 1972 was further demonstration of our ever firmer political posture and our firmer position in the world arena. It proves that our fight against US aggression for national salvation is closely linked with the mighty revolutionary currents now surging in the world with a dauntless and ever fiercer anti-US mettle.

1972 is the year when the revolutionary heroism of Viet Nam, her just stand and the dignity of the Vietnamese people radiated all over the five continents while the costly and immoral war of the US in Viet Nam caused to it piling difficulties in all fields, generated deeper division than ever among the American people. This war is wakening the conscience of the American people in face of the policies of the warmongering ruling cliques, in the United States. The position and prestige of the US have fallen to its lowest in the world.

The Council of Ministers holds that the big victories in 1972 have brought important changes to the balance of forces between us and the enemy on the South Viet Nam battlefield in our favour.

These victories, coupled with our efforts full of good will on the diplomatic front, have forced the US to agree with us on October 20, 1972 to an agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam.

After condemning the US for refusing to sign this agreement, the communiqué said:

The people in both parts of Viet Nam have fought for nearly 30 years without shrinking before any sacrifices with a view to achieving independenee, freedom and national reunification. More than anybody else on this globe, we ardently cherish peace but it must be a peace in independence, freedom and national reunification. No brutal force, no perfidious move can make us deviate from that sacred goal.

The communiqué laid down the lines and tasks for the coming period as well as the immediate concrete tasks of the South Vietnamese people.

It pointed out:

What is most essential and basic is to strengthen and broaden still further the national united front, rally the patriotic, democratic, peace and national concord forces of all strata, political tendencies and religious beliefs and nationalities, all persons opposed to the US aggressors and their henchmen—the stubborn and bellicose Nguyen Van Thieu clique.

The Council of Ministers also unanimously holds that to reach the above goal, the policy of "national concord" is the most suitable to the present realities of the situation in South Viet Nam and the requirements of the struggle for national salvation and construction. That policy is also the development of the millenary tradition of unity of our people. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam resolves to strive for that goal considering it the "foremost fundamental policy for the immediate as well as long-term future" as already defined at the joint meeting on November 3,1972 between the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Force.

The PRG of the RSVN will lay down concrete provisions for the implementation of the policy of ensuring unity and broad national concord among the people.

With regard to those who have strayed from the right path but now sincerely wish to redeem the past, the policy of national concord, based on the persuation through justice and humanity and leniency in treatment, will provide an outlit for all those strayed persons to return to the people's ranks.

The communiqué then commended the South Viet Nam armed forces and people for their achievements and hailed their fresh victories.

It went on:

The Council warmly welcomes and is profoundly grateful to the Governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the nationalist countries and the peoples and governments of other countries in the world including the progressive people in the United States, who, for the sake of peace, justice, national independence and social progress, have reserved for the South Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, their sympathy and ever more active and effective assistance. The South Vietnamese people are resolved to be worthy of the trust and love of their friends in the five continents and to fight uncompromisingly against the savage US aggressors. For their sacred independence, the South Vietnamese people always make it their duty to contribute to the liberation of the oppressed peoples and the safeguarding of peace, justice and human civilization.

This is "The Voice of Viet Nam"

"This is *The Voice of Viet Nam*, broadcasting from Hanoi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam."

The announcer's familiar voice suddenly fell silent at 4.51 a.m. on December 19, 1972, during the program of songs and music for South Vietnamese listeners. What had happened?

Since 7.30 in the evening before, flights of giant B-52s had been rumbling over Hanoi, raining down their loads of explosive. The town was rocked by thunderous detonations. The whole country was tuning in to *The Voice of Viet Nam* for news, and the world for the truth to be disseminated from the capital of Viet Nam.

The Voice had fallen silent! One minute. Two and three minutes. What had happened? Listeners throughout the world were seized by a deep emotion. All Vietnamese hearts had long been beating in unison with the country's heart and were now racked with anxiety.

Exactly nine minutes later, the sweet, solemn, calm and dear voice was heard again. "This is *The Voice of Viet Nam*, broadcasting from Hanoi..."

On the night of December 18

From where I was, I could see when looking in the direction of Hanoi's south western suburbs, the two aerials of the *Viet Nam Radio Station*. Two upright structures proudly pointing at the sky, above a wide country strewn with concrete and torn iron debris and pockmarked by bomb craters. A symbol of fearlessness face to the foe and unsubdued national pride. Eight huge bombs had landed right close to the four pillars and for all the violent blasts, they were still standing erect against the blue sky.

That was another installation of *The Voice of Viet Nam* which US B-52s were bent on blotting out right on the first night of their heinous attack on Hanoi at the end of 1972. The most dastardly part of an assault of the deepest dye was to gag the beaten victim to stifle all calls for help, a gangster's technique.

On a plot not larger than a quarter of a square kilometre, as many as seventy B-52s and F-4s in 4 waves had been slamming down thousands of tons of bombs in the course of three days and nights. A two-kilometre strip extending from the radio station to a neighbouring hamlet had come under carpet bombings. But the radio specialists and skilled works weathered the four air-raids, each remaining at his post together with the self-defence units. Electrician Thanh fell in action in the defence of the Voice of the Fatherland. The shower of bombs violently shook the transmitters and caused flutters and fade-outs. From their foxholes, radio technicians emerged and regulated their apparatuses during intervals between the assaults.

On December 19, at 4.51 a.m. the transmitting station crumbled down under a shower of heavy bombs. Three women-workers then attending a "3 responsibilities' shift" were buried in their dug-outs by the rubble. It happened at the very moment *The Voice of Viet Nam* went off the air. How jubilant must the White House and the Pentagon be then! But just nine minutes later... it again resounded: "This is *The Voice of Viet Nam*, broadcasting from Hanoi..."

The enemy can never gag our mouths nor silence *The Voice of Viet Nam*. It will keep sending out information on Hanoi's battle successes, on Viet Nam's combat gains, denouncing the US aggressors' war crimes and broadcasting the world's angry outbursts against US atrocities.

And miraculously, only twenty minutes after the bombing, the three "3 responsibilities" girls were dug out of their shelters, safe and sound!

On the afternoon of December 19

I found myself walking in the very compounds of the *Viet Nam Radio Station*, inside the capital, where in 1945, after the seizure of power from Japanese and French hands, we took over this service (then barely a radio-telegraphy centre), had a radio station set up and the first radio broadcast of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was made from there. Many hundred people, cadres, skilled workers, artistes, the whole staff of *The Voice of Viet Nam*, were there when Yankee 2,000-pounders poured down on the afternoon of December 19. It was again just like the imperialists. To a day, 26 years ago, the French colonialists' provocation broke out in Hanoi and prompted this dramatic announcement: "The French aggressors have started the hostilities in Hanoi. The nation-wide resistance has also begun!"

Then the whole service was evacuated from the capital. Sometime later, the same announcement was heard again, with but a little change to its beginning: "This is *The Voice of Viet Nam* broadcasting *near* Hanoi."...

And eight years later, on October 10, 1954, this heroic broadcasting Service came back to liberated Hanoi and recovered its former building. *The Voice of Viet Nam* was again broadcasting from Hanoi, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Before my eyes, bomb craters dotted the landscape, amidst heaps of debris. Not a single house had escaped destruction. Half-burnt copies of papers and magazines lay scattered all around a broken book-case. Rough copies of unfinished musical compositions were seen near a smashed guitar. Bowls, dishes and chopsticks still sticky with food were lying pell-mell. The enemy obviously had elected not merely to hit at equipment and material. They were also bent upon wiping out men, aware that short of this, they would never be able to silence the *Voice*. The right moment for this was when people were back at home, eating or resting, for a "neat" kill. But could the Vietnamese man so easily be crushed by US bombs and shells? The Station's self-defence units put up an hour's fight against the Yankee air-gangsters. Tens of heavy bombs wrecked machinery, destroyed clothes, implements and house-hold utensils, but failed to inflict any fatality. Thanks to an adequate civil defence good look out organization and the men's courage, only two people were wounded of a many-hundred strong team on duty during that air-raid.

And our nation is ever living on

If Nixon wanted to do away with the very makers of this *Voice* which had been courageously denouncing US crimes, he obviously failed. Houses may be demolished, personal belongings lost, but even when they had only a piece of clothing left the many-hundred staff of *The Voice of Viet Nam* immediately resumed their work immediately after the air strikes. Engineers and skilled workers were still operating their machines somewhere, so that the irrepressible waves continued to radiate. Reporters of *The Voice of Viet Nam* were still covering battlefields for stories of hatred and stubborn fighting of heroic Hanoi: On December 25, the newsreel "Hanoi's five-day confrontation with Yankee aggressors" appeared on the TV.

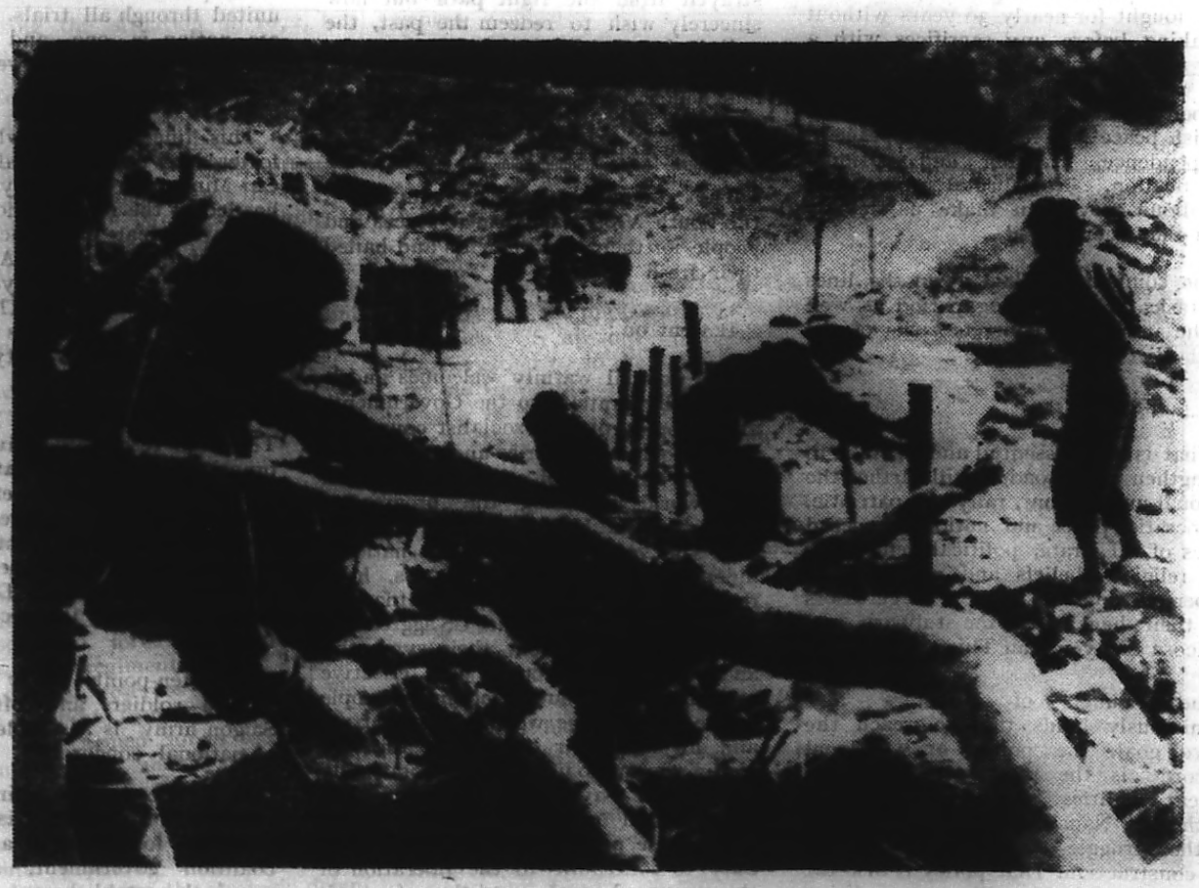
On the night of December 26, B-52's saturated Kham Thien Street, and the news-making shooting down by Hanoi and North Viet Nam of eight B-52s inspired the song "Hanoi's sleepless night" and a lot of other works...

The Voice of Viet Nam's regular news, political, cultural and arts broadcasts are still reaching its listeners. The Radio's artistes not only keep performing in its studio, but also again and again for fighters at the latter's very gun positions.

The Voice of Viet Nam is always on the air, alive and throbbing like a man's breath. And our nation is ever living on.

LUU QUY KY

(Nhan Dan, *January* 16, 1973)



The Quang Trung Engineer Battalion, a heroic unit, opening the way to the frontline

U.S. war escalation condemned

GDR :

"Same on the aggressors! Shame on all abettors of US crimes!"

Berliners observed the 54th death anniversary of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg on January 15 by staging a 150,000-strong demonstration.

Addressing them, W. Jarowinski, alternate member of the SUPG Central Committee said: "Boiling with hatred and contempt, we raire our indignant voices against the utterly inhuman and savage US policy of extermination in Viet Nam. Shame on the aggressors! Shame on all abettors of the US crimes!"

By January 12, dozens of millions of signatures had been collected throughout the GDR for over twenty thousand petitions demanding that the Nixon administration end its aggression in Viet Nam. Copies of these have been sent to representatives of the DRVN and the RSVN in Berlin.

The fund-raising campaign for Viet Nam has been going on with great success. 5.2 million marks have been contributed by trade unions in Postdam, and 250,000 by workers of the "Orient" metal works. 110,000 marks have been collected by handicrafts workers in Schwerin and Frankfort on the Oder, and Radio Berlin has earned for Viet Nam 3.8 million by giving 4 concerts.

FRANCE :

US flag replaced by swastika

Demonstrations and meetings keep taking place, and deputations streaming to the US Embassy in Paris to protest the recent US blitz of North Viet Nam. During an action, protestors lowered a US flag and replaced it with the swastika.

Enthusiastic response has been given to the appeal made by the Cochin Hospital. In the first drive, over 15,000 francs were collected in medical centres, universities and research institutes in Paris and other parts of the country for the reconstruction of the bombed-out Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi.

GREAT BRITAIN :

The Liberal Party youth organization issued on January 13 a resolution calling for the closure of the US Embassy in London and the boycott of US goods till the end of the US aggression in Viet Nam.

It also urged British Trade Unions to impede the import of US goods.

The Christian Aid has decided to make a gift of surgical instruments and medicines worth 25,000 sterlings to Viet Nam.

WEST BERLIN :

Two 6,000-strong demonstrations were staged on January 13 and 14 against US genocide in Viet Nam. Demonstrators marching through main streets, carried placards reading "Stop all horrors against Indochina!" and "Solidarity with Viet Nam!"

The Social Democratic Party youth organization has collected 20,000 marks for the RSVN PRG, while 3,800 marks have been contributed by the personnel of a major hospital for the reconstruction of the Bach Mai Hospital.

HOLLAND :

Occupation of US Consulate

Demonstrators in Amsterdam occupied on January 15 the US Consulate for 2 hours in protest of the US bombing in Viet Nam. A banner was put up demanding Nixon to sign the peace accord immediately, and leaflets were handed out saying the bombs used by the US in Viet Nam in the war were the equivalent of 35 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs.

It had been decided earlier that beginning from January 13, the bells of the city hall in Hilversum would be rung for five minutes on Saturday till the restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

So far, the Dutch have sent to Viet Nam medicines and medical instruments worth 4.5 million gulden.

HUNGARY :

Blood-donation movement up

Office employees, workers and home-guard units in many parts of the country are taking part in the blood donation drive to help Viet Nam. Over 1,000 donators were registered in a medium-sized town in the single day of January 10.

So far, 5 million florints have been gathered for Viet Nam to make good the aftermaths of the US blitz, and great quantities of medicines and medical instruments have been shipped to Viet Nam.

In Japan's major cities, the population collected signatures urging the US government to sign at once the Peace Agreement on Viet Nam

SWITZERLAND :

Assaults on US Consulate and American firms

Around 3,000 people demonstrated in front of the US Consulate in Geneva on January 13. After condemnation of the US crimes by many speakers, they smashed its window-panes with bricks and rocks. This done, they branched out into nearby streets and attacked various American banks, company offices and shops.

MEXICO :

Little demonstrators

Thousands of children, between 9 and 14, demonstrated for 2 straight hours in front of the US Embassy in Mexico City on January 11 against Nixon's saturation bombings on DRVN populous areas. One kid carried a placard, which read "Nixon, what have Vietnamese children done to you?"

The protest was described by the local people as the most typical and most moving antiwar action in the whole country.

WEST GERMANY :

Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in Bond on January 14 and 15 against the atrocious US war in Viet Nam. The protesters urged that the Brand administration join in the condemnation of the barbarous US air strikes. On January 14 alone some 20,000 people participated in the action.

A peak attendance in the protest movement which had been going on for some time in the form of a series of protest marches in many cities.

120,000 people, among them many important political figures and labour leaders, have put their names to an appeal made by the International Action for Viet Nam for the immediate ending of the US war and the US signing of the peace accord reached by the US with the DRVN.

SWEDEN :

Over half a million signatures

By January 12 over half a million people had put their signatures, in response to the call of the five political parties in the Parliament, to a letter to the US government demanding the termination of the Viet Nam war.

O. Palme and many other political leaders were among solicitors of signatures, standing for hours in the streets to urge their fellow-countrymen to join in the campaign.

INDIA :

Proposed ban on use of Indian railway by American officials

Unionized railway workers in Southern Calcutta demonstrated on January 6 in front of the US Information Centre against the US war escalation in Viet Nam. A statement was issued calling on all workers to take resolute actions in support of Viet Nam. Railway trade unions were urged not to handle US-bound consignments and to deny the use of trains to American officials. The demonstrators also urged the Indian Government to close down all US Information Centres in India.

CANADA :

Boycott of all American products

A former high-ranking official of the External Affairs Ministry, G. Gowell, has called for the boycott of all American products – goods and literature – as a protest against the US war in Viet Nam. He said each Canadian's duty was to oppose this barbarous war.

NORWAY :

No pollution by Nixon

13 youth organizations have sent a joint petition to the government pointing out that Nixon should not be allowed to visit their country as long as he has not stopped all the bombings in Indochina.

It is widely held as reported by the press, that Nixon should not be allowed to come, because he would "pollute" the country. The US President has been warned that he would be received with tomatoes addled eggs and even "insecurity."

BERTRAND RUSSELL'S TRIBUNAL

Jean Paul Sartre and Vladimir Deacder, members of the tribunal founded by the ate Lord Bertrand Russell to try US war crimes in Viet Nam, at a recent meeting in London, wrote to world figures including Pope Paul VI, Chilean President Allende, Swedish Premier O. Palme, Australian Premier Gough Whitlam, and US Senate Democratic leader M. Mansfield, denouncing to them the savage US air strikes on Hanoi and on other populous regions of North Viet Nam last month, and requesting them to do the same and "announce their readiness to go to Viet Nam and stay in Hanoi in case the US bombings were resumed."

ITALY :

Call for greater international solidarity with Viet Nam

A meeting attended by thousands of participants was held in Sardinia on January 15 for the immediate US signing of the October 20, 1972 peace treaty.

Two days before the National executive of the Italy-Viet Nam Committee had issued a statement pointing to the possibility of further US bombings and the frantic efforts of the Thieu administration to eliminate the opposition.

The statement called upon all forces of democracy and progress in the world to step up the enlisting of solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, and to pressure the Nixon administration into signing the agreement on the restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

USA :

International Committee for Release of South Viet Nam Political Prisoners formed

During a recent meeting in Mineapolis, Minnesota; representatives of religious and peace organizations in the United States, Canada and France set up the International Committee to free South Vietnamese Political Prisoners from Detention, Torture and Death. Its purpose is to protest the harsh prison regime in South Viet Nam, bring to light the schemed secret execution of detained patriots, and militate for their release.

The committee, based in Mineapolis, has launched an appeal to the peoples of all countries for immediate actions against US-Saigon criminal plots in South Viet Nam.

A report said within 9 days, 100,000 were collected for the reconstruction of Hanoi's US-devastated Bach Mai Hospital. This campaign raised 300,000 of the 3 million dollar target from January 1 to 10.

The whole world urges:

PEACE NOW IN VIET NAM!

As a follow-up of the previous issue, we publish below excerpts from the statements, letters, messages... of various international, regional and national organizations in the world against the recent frenzied and brutal US escalation in North Viet Nam—Ed.

The World Federation of Trade Unions:

"The World Federation of Trade Unions regards this new escalation of the Nixon administration as an unprecedented challenge to world public opinion. It urges the United States to end immediately the bombing and sign without delay the agreement already reached between the US and the DRVN Government on October 20, 1972." (December 1972).

"As the peace negotiations have been resumed in Paris, the resolute support for the heroic Vietnamese people must be boosted to its highest level since the current talks do not yet mean peace. Experience of the recent past shows that Nixon may effect the most brazen volte-face" (January 8, 1973).

The International Union of Students:

"The brutal crimes of the US imperialists are Nixon's response to the determination of the DRVN to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem as shown by the October 20 draft agreement which the United States has so far refused to sign. The International Union of Students strongly condemns the new massive bombings by US imperialism and its escalation plot against the DRVN."

The international Confederation of the Free Trade Unions (ICFTU):

"Is it true that the political leaders in the United States have landed in such an impasse and are so despaired that they are blind to the glaring truth that one cannot impose peace with bombs and shells?"

The World Federation of Scientists:

"The shocking terror bombings of populous areas in the DRVN have stained the honour of the United States. In the name of the hundreds of thousands of scientists, members of this World Federation, we, scientific workers, urge immediate cessation of the treacherous and ignominious attacks and early signing of the agreement which you (Nixon) had reached, prior to the presidential election in the United States."

The Federation of International Federation of Women's Lawyers, the International Women's Union for Peace and Freedom and the Women's International Democratic Federation:

"Peace would have been a reality had the United States not gone back upon the peace agreement already arrived at with the DRVN. This document must be signed immediately."

The OSPAAAL:

"The Nixon administration's massive B-52 and tactical bombing and strafing of Hanoi and many other populous areas in North Viet Nam threw an arrogant challenge to progressive opinion in the world, the principles of international law and man's ethics and conscience. They were an extremely serious escalation in the new military adventure and have shed more light on the nature of the Nixon administration and at the same time spelled out the failure of the US aggressors."

The Afro-Asian Writers Association:

"The new savage crimes of aggression of US imperialism against the Vietnamese people have once again demonstrated that the Nixon administration is frantically thwarting the aspiration of the American people, disregarding the legitimate demands of the American people for an end to the aggressive war in Viet Nam and challenging the peace-and justice-loving people throughout the world."

The Co-ordinating Council of Latin American Agricultural Workers and Farmers Organizations:

"We are staging in this continent, together with other mass organizations, protests against the Nixon administration, to compel it to end immediately the bombing and the war, and sign the agreement reached with the DRVN on October 20, 1972."

The Buddhist Association of Asia:

"Step up and expand further everywhere the efforts of pagodas, seminaries, Buddhist monks and believers in Asia in a broad and vigorous movement to force the US government to end all acts of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina, and to sign immediately the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam."

The Burmese Peace Committee:

"It is clear that the US government wanted to secure a position of strength at the negotiating table with a frenzied war move. But it will meet with failure and must bear all the responsibility for the consequences of its actions."

The Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR:

"The Soviet working people indignantly condemn the brutality of the US militarists who have disregarded the basic principles of humanism and the Charter and Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations."

The Uraguayan Socialist Party:

"In face of the US criminal attacks on populous areas in North Viet Nam, a cynical expression of its intention to subdue by force a dauntless nation who are up-holding the banner of freedom, the Standing Committee of the Socialist Party of Uruguay stigmatizes them as a frenzied and stupid step and denounces the deceitful peace proposals of US imperialism. At the same time, the Socialist Party of Uruguay welcomes the combative spirit of the heroic Vietnamese people, who will surely inflict still more bitter setbacks on the imperialists."

The Central Committee of the Alliance for National Liberation of Malaya:

"The war adventures of the US imperialists have bared their bellicosity and the hypocrisy of their professions of "goodwill for peace." They have also proved that though it has lost heavily on the Vietnamese battlefield and been compelled to agree to the draft accord on ending war and restoring peace in Viet Nam, US imperialism still has not resigned itself to defeat continues to struggle. It is quite clear that the new US escalation was part of a long-premediated plan to bring the Vietnamese people to their knees so that US neo-colonialist domination could continue by the agency of Nguyen Van Thieu and US occupation of South Viet Nam could go on."

The Indonesian Communist Party:

"US imperialism was labouring under the illusion that by frenziedly intensifying the bombing and blockade of the DRVN, it could subdue the Vietnamese people and force on them a peace agreement and cease-fire on its absurd terms. It was nurturing the dream of making the Vietnamese people alter the contents of agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam already reached between the US and the DRVN on October 20, 1972. This has once again exposed the criminal scheme of the US imperialists for continuing the war of aggression in Viet Nam and the whole of Indochina, while pretending to want peace."

The Czechoslovak Socialist Youth Union:

"The worst crimes of the Nazi war criminals have been surpassed by those committed by the White House and Pentagon rulers in the past few days in Viet Nam. They however met with a powerful riposte from the Vietnamese people and have been branded by all men of conscience in the world."

The Zimbabwe Liberation Front:

"Clearly enough, the B-52's cannot turn the tide of the war. Their recent failure was a setback for Nixon and a new victory of the Vietnamese people."

The Peace Committee and Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Mongolia:

"This adventure of the US warmongers once again revealed the progressive mankind the objectionable double-dealing of the Nixon government.

Nevertheless, to whatever extent the warmongers may deploy their forces of aggression, they cannot bend the iron fighting will of the heroic Vietnamese."

Tens of thousands of West German Youths holding high banners and turning out in the streets to collect signatures.